

PEACE SENTINEL

Vol. 1

Medaryville, Indiana, April 24, 1942

No. 18

CZARIST RUSSIA HAD C.P.S. PROGRAM

It is sometimes supposed that the Civilian Public Service idea originated in the United States, but this is not altogether true, for Russia as early as 1880 began a program very similar to that provided by the United States Selective Service act of 1940. Believing that an account of the Russian provision would be of interest to the readers of the Peace Sentinel, we asked Dr. Hershberger, camp educational director, to write an article based largely on a German pamphlet written by Abr. Gorz and published in 1907. He kindly consented and so the first installment appears on page seven of this issue.

C.O.'s Set New Record

A new tree planting record for the Jasper-Pulaski nursery has already been made by a group of campees since their arrival on April 8th. The former record of 30,000 trees set by the CCC men may seem like a lot of tree planting for one day, but not to a group of C.O.'s fresh from Bluffton. With only 28 men (the CCC's had 35) Willis Hershberger's gang planted more than 83,000 trees in one day.

Forthcoming events.....

One special Friday evening feature has been planned. A representative from Indianapolis is to show pictures on fighting forest fires approximately May 1st.

According to present plans the Religious Life and Activities Committee will be in charge of the Sunday evening program for April 26. Several special programs and speakers have been tentatively scheduled. A group from the Friends Church at Wilder, Indiana will be at the chapel possibly May 10th. One of the Kouts churches will give a program on the 17th.

Arrangements have been made to have Rev. Richard Pengilly, pastor of the Methodist church at Medaryville, speak at the chapel some Sunday evening in the near future. Also slated is the pastor of the Nazarene church at Tefft, Indiana. One of the camp quartets is to sing at his church in the near future.

MEDARYVILLE CAMP NO. 28 OPENS

Civilian Public Service Camp No. 28 opened more or less formally on April 8th when all but a few members of the former Bluffton camp arrived in automobiles, government trucks and the camp pick-up. Although about ten men had been here as an advance detail a week earlier, the real move was on April the 8th. Several men stayed at Bluffton to finish work which could not be terminated until a few days later.

Although the sands of Medaryville are more and more becoming the home of the 130 men, it has required considerable adjustment and much work to make the sudden and unexpected move. The Jasper-Pulaski project here shows possibilities for a larger work program with fire prevention and control an important factor. All in all most of the men like the new location in spite of the feeling that a part of them has been left behind at Bluffton.

Director's Father Dies

Mr. Rufus Hartzler, father of Rev. R. L. Hartzler, camp director, died at his home in Topeka, Indiana last Wednesday after being ill for several years.

The camp group was saddened by the news of Mr. Hartzler's death, and deeply sympathize with their director and his family in this hour of their bereavement.

FIRST AID CLASS CLOSES

After it was announced that the Bluffton camp would be moved to Medaryville, steps were immediately taken to complete the Red Cross first aid course before moving if at all possible. With the ready co-operation of Mr. William Spurgeon, instructor at the Berne High School who was in charge of the course, classes were run several evenings in succession, and the final examination given on Friday evening April 3rd. About 50 men completed the course. The services of Mr. Spurgeon are greatly appreciated. Being an unusual instructor, his enthusiasm was contagious.

"Never say 'No' to God."

At the New Camp Chapel

Rev. Henry H. Brubaker of Mechanicsville, Pennsylvania and former Brethren in Christ missionary in Southern Rhodesia, Africa, was the speaker at the first meeting in the chapel of Camp Medaryville. He gave a challenging message on missions and the need for the gospel on foreign fields. He hopes to return to his African post as soon as the way opens. In the meantime he is to assume the directorship of a new Mennonite camp which opens at Placerville, California on April 23rd.

That same Sunday (April 12) the Eighth Street Mennonite Church of Goshen, Indiana, gave us an evening program with several numbers by a mixed quartet. Robert Hartzler, student at Goshen College, gave a talk on "Be ye Prepared". Joe Weaver, Bluffton Camp graduate, led the meeting.



FORESTRY PROJECT

by

Bud Rensberger

This the first article for the Peace Sentinel at Medaryville, should, I suppose, acquaint our readers with the new park.

The Jasper-Pulaski State Park is located in the northwestern part of Indiana. As indicated by the name, it lies in parts of two counties, Jasper and Pulaski. It is much larger than the Wells County State Forest where we formerly worked, being 6000 to 7000 acres in size. It is on the southern edge of the Kankakee marsh but should not be confused with the area next to and north of the Kankakee river. While much of it is swampy and low there are spots where the ground tends to be slightly rolling. The higher soils are extremely sandy and not fertile enough to be very satisfactory for farming.

There is a forty acre nursery in the park that is still being developed. About fifteen acres of pipe will have to be put up to complete the irrigation system. In front of the nursery building there is a pond from which the water will be obtained for irrigating the nursery beds. Windbreaks, made by planting conifers, have been completed and surround three sides of the nursery. Because of the undeveloped stage of the project there is much work left to be done. For instance about four miles of roads will have to be built in the nursery itself.

Right now the boys are finishing the lifting of trees and packing of orders. They are starting the transplanting of seedlings in the nursery beds. One difference which we have noticed is the size and number of orders. Not only are the orders larger than at Bluffton, but also more numerous. One man, for instance, sent in an order for 17,000 trees.

Another project which most campers here as yet know little about is the fighting of forest fires. No calls have been received as yet, but with the summer coming on we are told that we will have our share of fire fighting. Class-room instruction and actual field practice are to be part of the training to be given to the men in the near future.

While our moving to Medaryville was
(continued on page 8)

FISH-AND GAME PROJECT

by

Dennis A Lehman

Last Thursday morning, the day after our arrival, thirteen men reported for duty on the new game project. The buildings and surroundings are different yet strangely similar to those we left at Bluffton. At first we may have looked strange and acted somewhat lost, but with brooms, shovels, rakes and buckets in our hands we felt very much at home long before the dinner bell rang.

Our work project will be very similar to the work we have been accustomed to doing for the past nine months. We may get lonesome for the eight hundred raccoon, as we do not have them here. However we have several animals on display which we did not have at Bluffton. For instance we have ferrets, beavers and our special joy and pride, a skunk. Except for its olfactory stimulation value however, the skunk is not as interesting as the beavers which are busy out in the forest. Dams which have been built by these most ingenious engineers of the animal kingdom are attracting a lot of attention. There are several of them in the preserve and are well marked for the convenience of sight-seers.

HEROIC PATTERNS

by Willis Hershberger



Matthaeus Mair
1592 A. D.

A priest in the town of Wier, Holland heard of the stand taken by Matthaeus Mair. He arranged that a servant maid and some peasants should

gather evidence against Matthaeus by posing as friends. Thus, he was apprehended and placed in jail. A large number of priests gathered and decided to execute him. When relatives offered large sums of money for Matthaeus' release, they were refused because of the great hatred the priesthood had for Mennonite believers.

In the process of the execution, the executioner partially drowned Matthaeus three times; but as long as he could speak he declared the true doctrine of Christ. So, failing to recant, he was put to death beneath the waters.

The martyrdom of Matthaeus Mair was one of the direct reasons why William of Orange and his son Maurice de Nassau issued orders of government giving religious toleration and freedom of worship to the protestant people.

New Arrival

Since the last number of the Peace Sentinel was issued we have had one new arrival, Mr. Leon Willoughby. He came to Camp Bluffton a few hours after it was announced that the camp would be moved to its present location here at Medaryville. This saved unpacking.

Leon comes from Detroit, Michigan where he is in the Lincoln Division of the Ford Motor Company. He is a member of the Calvary Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church of Detroit, and attended the Detroit Bible Institute.

WASHINGTON GUESTS

Major McLean, from the camp operations division of Selective Service visited the camp this week. This was his first visit to camp Medaryville.

Another visitor from Washington this week was George Reeves. He is assistant to Paul Comly French in the National Service Board for Religious Objectors office. He led the devotions Friday morning after breakfast.

Byler Writes from France...

On January 25th, J. N. Byler, former educational director of the Bluffton camp, wrote as follows:

"Yesterday morning I could see people standing in lines out in the cold and snow waiting for their rations of food at the markets. There are a few open markets out along the river that I can see from my hotel window. Since I know that many of these people do not have sufficient clothing and especially poor shoes, I could not help but feel sorry for them. Even in the snow yesterday I saw numerous people with wooden shoes. It is sometimes hard to say which is needed more, food or clothing."

Mr. Byler also sent excerpts from seventeen letters sent to him by school children, school directors, numerous individuals, and the mayor of Roanne. They express sincere gratitude for the distribution of dried vegetables and milk to the school children in Lyon. The pupils of a girl's school have expressed their gratitude in following words:

"It is a very big pleasure for us to utter our gratitude for the condensed milk you have sent to our canteen. Due to your gift the little children in France will be less hungry. Owing to you we will feel, that in spite of war and the massacre of men, there are still brotherly and compassionate hearts in the world. With our whole hearts we say to you, 'Thank you.'"

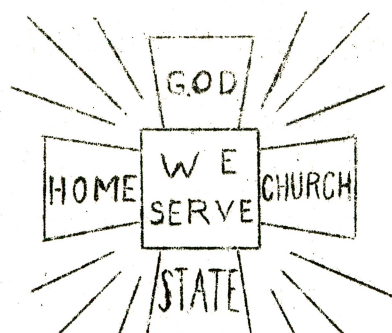
Large Numbers Fed

A monthly report for January shows that 17,580 persons (all but a few are children) received the regular amount of 50 grams per day of dried vegetables. This figure represents the most needy children. Besides that number there were around 38,000 who received some food through our workers during the month of January.

---From MCC Relief Notes.

Another Myth Exploded

To the average citizen a C.O. is associated with lack of courage and with an attempt to take an easy way out. This misconception would be amusing to those with enough courage not to take part in war if they could view it objectively. As it is, some consolation can be had in knowing that statistics are kinder than popular conceptions, for according to Dr. Jones, President of Fiske University, the percentage of C.O.'s who lost their lives in post war relief work after the last war is higher than the percentage of lives lost in the American Expeditionary Force.



"I KNOW THY WORKS" - REV 2:9

THE JASPER-PULASKI PEACE SENTINEL

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SHALL WE HELP THEM?

Our attention has been called to the voluntary frugal meal plan adopted by most of the men at the Merom, Indiana camp. Once a week all those participating eat a meal cut down to little more than a bowl of rice. The amount saved in food is donated to the American Friends Service Committee and is used to feed starving children in Europe.

We think this is the most constructive action yet taken by any C. P. S. Camp and that a similar plan in other camps would go a long way toward uniting the men and giving them a real vision of unexplored possibilities in the C.P.S. program. As yet none of us have been allowed to go to a foreign land to do relief work, but our help has not been denied. We can still give up some of our privileges, a little of our money perhaps, or some of our food.

It just isn't true that we have already given up much by coming here--unless we call giving up the army and its \$21.00 per month, much. Furthermore in this war our lot is actually going to be easier than that of the folks back home; not financially, perhaps, but in almost every other way. For if they remain true to their faith, if they do not compromise their position, if what they have taught us is what they believe themselves, they will face even more opposition than we who are somewhat segregated. There is no place for self-pity in a C. P. S. Camp.

There are good reasons why we should give up our claims to a few things..It would divert our attention from ourselves to others more needy of attention. It would be evidence to the world that our convictions are sincere and that we are not merely evading responsibility. It would be evidence that we really mean what we say when we ask to do foreign relief work. It would be a positive way of promoting good will with other nations, the value of which is being increasingly recognized. All these reasons are good, and well worth the small sacrifices involved, but even at best they are only incidental. The real reason, the really important reason, is that men are starving--actually dying, while we have plenty to eat and to spare.

Are we the kind who would watch a man's house burn down and sit idly by while it went up in smoke, never so much as turning a hand to put out the fire? Would we watch a man drown before our eyes, all the while complaining that our boat is not as good as it might be, and neglect to throw him the rope in our hands for fear that it might get wet? Or are we the kind who know that in France women and children are starving--we could keep some of them alive of course, but we are already making such big sacrifices by being here that--well we just won't be bothered. Let them die.

That is not the spirit of conscientious objectors. That is not the spirit of our camp. We must wake up and do our part, for already there has been much suffering while we did nothing. A thousand dollars a year can easily be raised if saving lives really means anything to us. The Merom idea alone, if adopted by this camp, would make a saving of at least \$400 which could be used for that purpose. The method however is not as important as the results about which Jesus himself said "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Kitchen Left-Overs

BY PAUL A KINZER

Everyone seems to be well pleased with our new kitchen and dinning room. The dinning room will seat about 160 persons, and the kitchen gives us ample room to do our cooking. Some guests already have had meals with us in our new camp. Major McLean, Dr. Fast, Mr. Olsen and Mr. Reeves are a few of the recent ones.

John Whetstone and Max Swartzell were "rookie" waiters in the kitchen this week due to changes made necessary because Mel Yoder and Jesse Reisseger were absent on furlough. Ray Miller and Paul Kinzer "pinch-hit" for the absent cooks.

The new combination of cooks, however, ran into some difficulties: The other day the potatoes did not lose their lumps and the gravy wanted to burn. Due to military secrets the formula for covering up scorched tastes can not be given in this column.

Some are still asking about the apricots which were served for breakfast the other morning. In answer to all the inquiries we must admit that they were really intended for making pies. However no one seems to have suffered any ill effects from them yet, so we will forget about it -- if you can -- and maybe next time we'll have them in pies!

FORMER PATRON WRITES

Salisbury, Pa.

My dear sons,

Will you all please note the address herein above included, and therefore will you please send all future Peace Sentinels to said address?? That would be very sweet of you!

Now how are you-all -- and why doesn't someone condescend to write to Ma? Is it because I seem too busy to answer your letters?

Deed and double, I'd be very happy to hear from any one of you -- it cheers me up in my old age! And moreover I'll try to answer not only all future letters, but also all past ones.

Very lovingly,

Ma

WHAT FAMOUS MEN HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WAR:

I confess without shame that I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither heard a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded, who cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation. . . . War is hell.

-- General W. T. Shreman

War is the denial of Christianity and of all the most sacred things of life.

-- Maj. General John F. O'Ryan

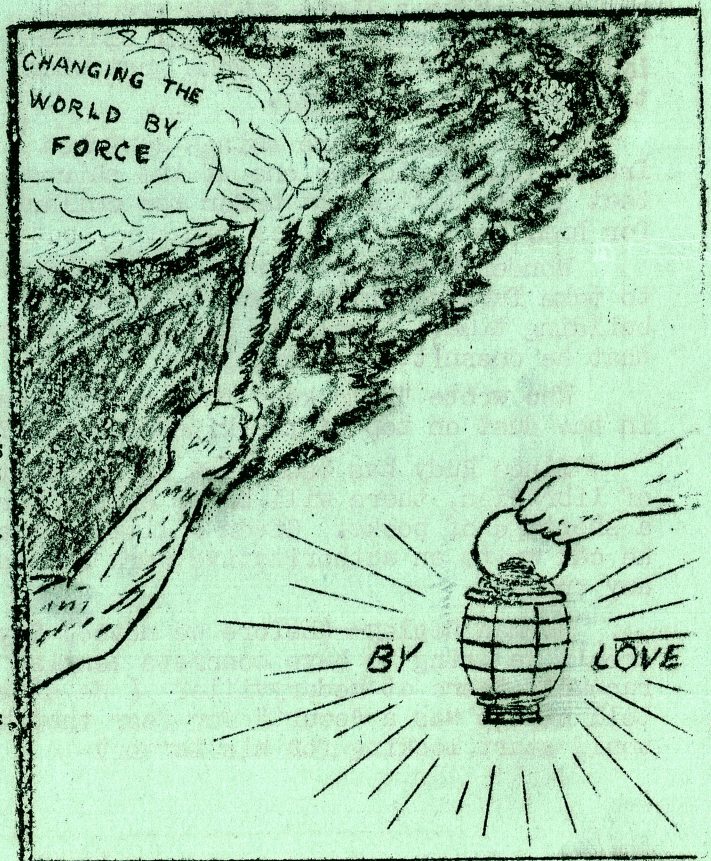
Laws of war have been carefully drawn up and in time of peace readily agreed to, only to be violated in time of war in so far as they stand in the way of the hideous dragon which overrides all law, human or divine.

-- David Starr Jordan (former pres. of Leland Stanford

There never was a time when, in my opinion, some way could not be found to prevent the drawing of the sword.

-- General Ulysses S. Grant

TORCH OR LAMP

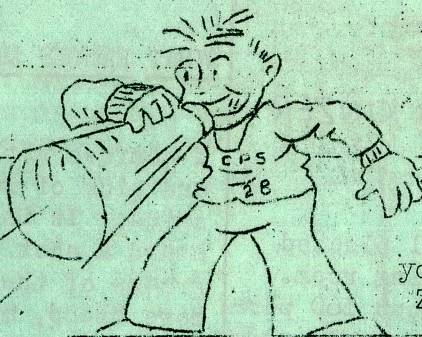


- WELLS

TIME

OUT

by Stuffy Geors



So Lyle Straus is on "bird shooting detail" eh? Someone ought to warn the state men about Lyle's aim, unless it has improved with pure age since pheasant season last fall. I would suggest we dig a few tunnels from dormitories to dining hall--just for safety's sake.

Someone reports that Miss Kolb has been hearing wolves prowling around her quarters up on the hill. I think its just her conscience bothering her because of that salmon dinner last week.

I couldn't figure out how George Smith could drive the Caterpillar tractor with such apparent ease, until I remembered how he drove the '37 Chevrolet truck here from Bluffton without so much as a spark plug under the hood. He certainly knows how to handle the tough ones.

Who said that Jake Girod couldn't paint a barn? Why he slaps casine on like a veteran. He even does a two coat job in one operation, one on the wall and one on the floor.

Someone better show Harve Stutzman how to hook up a light switch via the "current off" method. He still claims Lyle hit him with a neck yoke just when the sparks began to fly.

Ernie Miller sure swings a wicked iron. You should see one of the shirts that got "a little hot under the collar" for him.

Wonder why "carpenter" Kline decided to take furlough right here at partition building time? (Could it be--of all things that he doesn't like moving?)

Who wrote "Help keep this place clean" in the dust on top of the kitchen heater?

Since Rudy has been cast in the part of librarian, there will be no excuse for a shortage of books. Given a little paper he can write an authoritative work on most any subject.

Norman Begley--(before we moved) Say, aren't we going to have concrete tennis racquets there at Medaryville? (We didn't tell him it was a "court" for fear that he would start looking for his lawyer)

Speaking of calisthenics, you should have seen "electrician Zimmerman try to do a high jump while standing on the top of the ladder and just reaching out to cut the "live wire". Frederick Miller slapped a thin stick on the floor. From where I was standing I would judge the height of the jump somewhere around 18 inches. Luckily Loren believes in "what goes up must come down--and in the same spot too". There seemed to be no ill effects from the episode, but if Frederick is a mind reader I feel certain that he considers himself thoroughly bawled out.

I see where our nearest competitor, "The Salamonie Peace Pipe" is going on a bi-weekly basis. Unless I am badly mistaken that leaves no more Weekly C.P.S papers. We think they must have been an ambitious bunch to get one of these things out every week.

We have it on good authority that our old friend Louis Lee Lock down at Merom no longer has that pride of dorm B growth on his chin. When he returned from furlough sans whiskers he was introduced as a new campee. When "Doc" Bean collared him and was about to hand him some pamphlets Romain Zahm recognized him as someone he had seen at Bluffton the first or second week after the camp opened. By this time Louis's good-natured grin gave himself away. Years hence he will be able to call his grandchildren and tell them the story of his "hair raising experience".

Dorm B's monopoly games suffer the loss of banker Elmer Bontrager. We are hoping that no one takes the bank for a ride when Elmer's vigilant eyes are no longer there to protect the interests of the bank.

No, gentle reader, we did not fail to send you your last copy of the Peace Sentinel. We failed to publish it. We were so busy moving and getting settled that we just had to forget about the paper. We know that it has been hard for you to do without such an excellent publication the past few weeks, but then this issue should more than make up for it.

The Spirit of Nonresistance

By Guy F. Harshbarger
RUSSIAN CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE
1880-1918

Civilian Public Service among the Mennonites did not begin with the United States Selective Service Act of 1940. The precedent for the present program of the Mennonite Central Committee was set by the Mennonites of Russia in 1880. In 1870 the imperial government issued a ukase abolishing the special privileges of the non-Russian settlements in South Russia. For the Mennonites these privileges included exemption from military service. The ukase of 1870 gave the Mennonites ten years to adjust themselves to the new order. From that time on they would be included in the universal military service program of Russia.

FIRST C.P.S. CAMPS

The imperial edict caused great concern among the Mennonites, and the manner in which they met the new situation was in many respects similar to the way in which the enactment of the conscription law was met in the United States in 1940. First there was a conference of delegates from the various churches in the Mennonite colony in January, 1871. This conference sent a deputation to St. Petersburg in which conferred with high officials including Count Heyden, the president of the commission for the execution of the new program. Heyden told the their men could not be excused from all service, but would probably be assigned to sanitary or hospital service under the army. When the Mennonites objected to this as unacceptable because it was part of the military Heyden said that if everyone were like the Mennonites the whole country would be overrun with enemies. But Leonard Sudermann the leader of the delegation replied that if everyone took the position of the Mennonites there would be no need for defense. The delegation was then informed that the details of the new program had not yet been worked out and that they should call again later. In February, 1872, another delegation was sent to St. Petersburg only to discover that the army sanitary service had been definitely decided upon by the commission. When possible, they were told, it might be without the

(cont. on next colum)

bearing of arms. The commission's program had not been submitted to the imperial council, however, so the Mennonites returned home for further conferences with their churches, planning to return before the council would act. The Mennonite delegation made its third visit to St. Petersburg in September, 1872, and the fourth in February, 1873. On the latter visit they again saw Count Heyden and also Grand Duke Constantine, president of the imperial council, to whom they presented a memorial stating their nonresistant faith as found in the Scriptures, in the life and work of Menno Simons and in the history of the church. The Grand Duke was friendly, but he also suggested that the Mennonites would probably be assigned to hospitals or other noncombatant service in the army. In December, 1873 the fifth delegation was sent to

(cont. on p. 8)

LAUNDRY NEWS AND BLUES

By Albert Jones

Our camp laundry is well organized, but we do have a bit of trouble with one man's clothing. For them a smaller mangle would be desirable. Although now they are "just like Dad's", we expect Bert Eash to grow up in our new Jasper-Pulaski pasture.

Eli Yoder now wishes he had known how to iron at home; he could have saved his mother lots of work. But we still think he considers the future more than the past and often forgets the present while day dreaming.

J. A. Huffman Here

Dr. J. A. Huffman of Marion, Indiana, head of the Divinity School at Taylor University and of the Winona Summer Theological Seminary, visited camp last Sunday, April 19. He spoke at the camp chapel for the morning worship hour.

Dr. Huffman gave an inspiring message based on the fact that the meaning of the "Gospel" is "good news," and that this good news must be carried to others without hesitation. He believes that the term "non-resistance" as applied to Christians is too negative and that a more appropriate and descriptive phrase would be "super-resistance through love". He praised the Civilian Public Service Camp program and declared that it offered one of the most positive testimonies in all history.

FORESTRY

(cont. fr. p. 3)

done on very short notice and against adverse weather conditions, only one day of project work was lost. Although our plans and ambitions at Bluffton have had to be abandoned, we are nevertheless going forward with renewed zeal and vigor to make the best better.

RUSSIAN C. P. S. CAMPS

(cont. fr. p. 7)

the Russian capital in an effort to see the Zsar himself. They were unable to see him, however, and after leaving a written memorial for him they returned home, very much discouraged

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

From the beginning some of the Mennonites considered the situation serious enough to warrant emigration. The Bergsaler congregation did not even take part in the first deputation to Russia, having made up its mind to go to America. And now since the fifth visit to the capital seemed to have failed the entire Mennonite colony considered doing likewise. As one Russian Mennonite writer states it, they now had to decide whether personal service to the state, even in a mild form, if part of the military organization, was consistent with the principle of nonresistance. Many believed it was not, and resolved to emigrate. A small group went to Turkestan, but the great body of emigrants turned to America. As early as 1871 correspondence was opened with John F. Funk, Mennonite leader of Elkhart, Indiana, and in 1873 an official delegation of twelve leaders came from Russia to America to "spy out the land with a view to migration.

(continue in next issue)

IN OTHER CAMPS

Prayer Meetings are held every evening in the south end of dorm #2 at ten o'clock. An invitation goes out to all campees to join this worthwhile meeting. Prayer is needed to produce the most exalted symphony of life. C.P.S. Camp No. 8 Marietta, Ohio.

Sitting down to a sacrificial meal March 27, 65 men began a practice that is to be repeated each Friday, with savings, in the cost of food being used to relieve starvation in Europe and suffering here. The meal follows a decision by the camp meeting, March 9, to experiment in methods of sacrifice. A committee report the camp menu is above the dietary and far above the diet of most today. C.P.S. Camp No. 14, Merom, Indiana.

On March 16, 1942 at 4:55 p. m. ominous black clouds, sheets of rain, and wind that shook the buildings made one wonder what might be happening as the main part of a storm could be seen passing about two miles south of Henry, Ill. At 6:00 p. m., just as the men were leaving the dining hall, a strange feeling gripped us as word came that a tornado had struck Lacon, Ill. An hour and fifteen minutes later fifty-five CPS Campees fully equipped to clean the streets of all kinds of debris, entered the stricken town. Staying on the job until 5:00 a. m. the next morning despite fog and wind meant that the men had been working for twenty-two hours with only enough time off to eat. We regret that Lacon was in the storm's path but are glad to be able to serve.

C.P.S. Camp No. 22, Henry, Illinois.

APRIL

From.....
C.P.S. Camp #23
Medaryville, Indiana

Sec. 562 P.L. & R.

Dean H. S. Bender

Goshen, Indiana

